



Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot *Milwaukee County, WI*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

PILOT BACKGROUND

EPA Region 5 has selected Milwaukee County for a Regional Brownfields Pilot. This pilot represents a unique collaborative effort between the County of Milwaukee, the City of Milwaukee, and the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corporation (ICC). The latter is a non-profit organization, focusing on economic redevelopment, with close ties to the business community, job training alliances, and community groups.

Milwaukee County, as the pilot recipient, is focusing its efforts on the five-mile long segment of active rail line in the urban center of Milwaukee, commonly identified as the 30th Street Industrial Corridor (Corridor). This area is located within the federally-designated Enterprise Community (EC) in the City of Milwaukee, where 34 percent of the predominantly minority residents live in poverty. The EC designation may provide additional support to economic redevelopment efforts in the form of tax incentives for business development in the Corridor.

In addition, parts of the area have been identified by EPA's Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) list as containing 33 high to medium-high priority sites of known contamination. The Corridor lost 59

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Date of Award:
February 1997

Amount: \$200,000

Site Profile: The Pilot targets a five-mile segment of active railroad corridor passing through Milwaukee's urban core, composed of a mix of residential, commercial, retail, and industrial properties.

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percent of its manufacturing jobs between 1972 and 1990, leaving it blighted and in peril of losing further anchor industries.

OBJECTIVES

The Milwaukee County Brownfields pilot will be considering appropriate roles that can be played by non-profit organizations like the ICC. To that end, both the City of Milwaukee and the County will provide general guidance and oversight for brownfield pilot activities, while the ICC will oversee day-to-day pilot activities including site selection, oversight of technical studies and remedial plans, and loan fund management.

Due to its expertise in industrial development and its long-standing relationship with many community organizations, the ICC is well positioned to facilitate outreach activities. The ICC will, in turn, work with the EC Neighborhood Coordinating Board, neighborhood organizations, the Metropolitan Milwaukee Civic Alliance (a consortium of 20 civic organizations), the Minority Chamber of Congress, MICAH (a consortium of inner city religious groups), and local environmental groups.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot is:

- Hosting several brownfields workshops and town hall meetings with organized community groups and local citizens;
- Establishing a Citizen's Technical Advisory Consortium to facilitate the communication of brownfields information. A "minority outreach" specialist will work closely with local community organizers;
- Identifying and assessing contaminated properties in the Corridor;
- Preparing a remedial action plan for selected brownfields properties; and
- Examining methods to establish a self-supporting revolving fund to pay for the acquisition and remediation of brownfields sites.